



2020 Annual Report

A Year of Accomplishments



The Sharing Center

SHARE | SERVE | ADVOCATE

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From the Executive Director



Sharon Pomaville
Executive Director

2020 was a year like none other for the Center's 38 years of service in Kenosha County.

On the evening of March 12th, our staff worked into the night preparing to open to a new day filled with uncertainty, increasing need, and a pandemic. Our unwavering commitment to serve guided us.

The challenges we faced were not unlike those faced by families, schools, businesses, and churches: change your model, change your delivery. And we did, offering curbside service, virtual classes, and decreasing our volunteers substantially. Flexibility and saying 'Yes!' to daily changes and challenges became our year, and we thrived! Our participants, who count on us to be here no matter what, were met with a smile, a calm voice, and assurance that everything will be ok.

Continuing education: our rurally based staff and volunteers took part in a multitude of online classes now more accessible to us! We dug in deep, and we examined ourselves, our reasons for serving, and our long-term goals for the Center. Then we lobbed that goal far out into the future and began bringing in the partners to bring it to fruition. We took yet another look at equity, discrimination, and any disempowering parts of our programs. We began to implement these '2020 upgrades' to our founder's Kathy & Rick Fors dream that people can raise themselves as high and far as they want to go!

Advocacy: in our community, in our state, and our country- what does our community need, and what are people really hungry for? We worked diligently with state advocacy coalitions to ensure the abundance of food in our state was distributed to every corner in need. We worked hand in hand with the numerous local partners already serving crisis and nutritional needs in Kenosha County and became stronger together. One by one, we gathered all the pieces as a community and rose without a hiccup to meet the need.

That's the power of collaboration, with respect, dignity, kindness, and in honor of one another.

We sincerely thank all our supporters who continue to make what we do at the Sharing Center possible. Your generosity allows us to continue our mission of serving western Kenosha county residents by sharing resources and advocating for self-sufficiency.

I am honored to serve yet another year increasing our community's well-being, and maybe one day, in a hunger-free community where everyone has a home.

In Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Pomaville".

Sharon Pomaville
Executive Director



Snapshot of Kenosha County

In 2020...

The Sharing Center served 3542 individuals

Of those receiving services:

1716 enrolled in the **Children's Nutrition Program**

596 received **Senior Stock Boxes**

16 received **Domestic Violence services**

45 were referred for **Homeless services**

Stats across Kenosha County:

59%

of children are food insecure ¹

28%

of seniors are enrolled in FoodShare ³

36%

of families meet ALICE criteria; *Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed* ⁵

11%

enrolled in FoodShare ²

14%

live in poverty ⁵

16.3%

county-wide unemployment rate ⁴

1: dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/program_statistics

2: USDA. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/ops/snap-community-characteristics-wisconsin>

3: USDA. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/ops/snap-community-characteristics-wisconsin>

4: US Bureau of Labor Statistics. https://ycharts.com/indicators/kenosha_wi_unemployment_rate

5: UnitedWay. <https://www.kenoshaunitedway.org/alice-asset-limited-income-constrained-employed-families>

Bringing Beauty to the Community

Mural project brings community together during pandemic

Utilizing the East-facing wall of the Sharing Center as the canvas for a vibrant mural has been a dream that executive director, Sharon Pomaville, has long wanted to make a reality. Every day, thousands of cars are stopped by passing trains on Highway C right in front of the Sharing Center. With the help of several community members and local businesses, this dream became reality in 2020.

In the Winter of 2019, the process started by asking community members for their ideas for a mural. A call to action was posted on social media with many designs submitted. Two art teachers from neighboring Salem Grade School - whose Art Club has completed murals in other parts of the community-- decided they would love to be a part of this project.



The project gets started by spray painting the mural outline.



Brittany Stalker and Sara Grabarec enjoy their finished project.

After gathering all of the submissions from community members, Salem art teachers, Sara Grabarec and Brittany Stalker, combined common elements from each to create a rough draft of the project. Once the final artwork was decided on, Sara and Brittany put together a plan to outline the mural artwork in spray paint during the summer months so painting the mural could take place in the fall.



Community members wishing to volunteer their time could sign up for time slots on two weekends during October. Volunteers were encouraged to bring any supplies that might help with the project along with a great attitude and a smile! In total, over 20 community members volunteered their weekends to help.

By the time the final brushstroke was made 22 months after the project began, many laughs had been shared, connections made, and friendships forged. The final product was created and brought to fruition by the community for the community.



Community Network

The Center recognizes the necessity of a community network by being a part of local initiatives that advance the mission and vision of the Sharing Center.

Hunger Relief Federation of Wisconsin

A coalition supporting and strengthening free, local and independent food banks and pantries to pave a path for a healthier, hunger-free Wisconsin



Healthy People Kenosha Steering Committee

Childhood Nutrition Committee Member

Promoting physical activity and healthier food choices; Decreasing the number of children in poverty

Kenosha County Food Bank

Board Member

Bridging the gaps between healthy food resources and hunger-relief organizations



Kenosha County Board - Supervisor - District 20

Determining policies and directing the county government to establish laws, programs, and services

Kenosha County Emergency Management

Lessening the impacts of disasters in the community through mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery



Emergency Services Network (ESN) of Kenosha County

Hunger Prevention Council - Chair & Legislative Committee - Co-chair

Bringing together community agencies to create better coordination of services serving low income county residents

Homeless Awareness Prevention Partnership (HAPP)

Providing resources and assistance to those facing homelessness



Criminalization of Homelessness

Committee Chair

Advocating for the dignity, compassion, and support of individuals experiencing homelessness

Kenosha County Opioid Task Force

Understand Addiction. Promote Recovery. Strengthen Community.

Racial Equity Workgroup Member

Tasked to create the Kenosha County Equity Commission

Children's Hospital of Wisconsin

Partner in giving gifts to children in their care

The Gift of Giving

**Gifts provided to Children
for the holidays:**

385

From:
The Sharing
Center



These gifts of clothes, coats, and toys brought joy to many kids in the community! We saw a record number of donated gifts and may or may not have sent Santa into early retirement...



"I've received so much help from The Sharing Center! They helped me with my son with Christmas gifts and food for Christmas dinner. The staff and volunteers have been wonderful to me. I'm happy the Sharing Center is here giving."

-Tammy



School Connections

Sharing Center continues to advocate for school lunch programs

When the pandemic started in mid-March, students, families, teachers, and administrators believed schools would resume in-person instruction in a few short weeks. As the weeks began to pass by without students physically in school buildings, the Sharing Center continued to advocate for student lunch programs, especially to continue benefiting local families remotely.



"In 2015, we began working hand in hand with local schools advocating for school meal improvements. These critical partnerships helped assure children were fed and schools had the needed resources to provide stellar meal programs. It also made the transition to remote meal service almost immediate when schools went virtual. I couldn't have been more proud watching each school in action, earning an A+ in my eyes."

- Sharon Pomaville, Executive Director

Working with local schools years prior to the pandemic allowed for open channels of communication between the center and schools. Westosha Central's superintendent John Gendron stated:

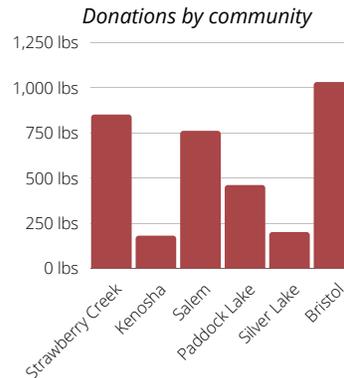
"The Sharing Center's efforts to positively impact families who were temporarily impacted from COVID-19 made a huge difference in our community."

Due to strong advocacy from the Sharing Center before and during the pandemic, many area schools such as Westosha Central High School, Wheatland, Trevor-Wilmot, Salem, and Wilmot High adopted COVID school lunch policies to serve students in their homes.

CHS students collect over 3,500 pounds of food

Each fall, the Westosha Central Association of Business Students (ABS) puts together a food drive to support the Sharing Center. ABS is a student-run co-curricular organization that provides students the opportunity to plan and execute community and school events, fundraisers, community service projects, socials, and participate in DECA and FBLA competitions.

The food drive, named Trick-or-Can takes place each year during Halloween. The week before Halloween, ABS members leave paper bags with a note asking for donations of non-perishable food items from community members in Salem, Paddock Lake, Bristol, Silver Lake, and Kenosha. On Halloween night, ABS members get dressed up in their best costume and go around the community collecting the bagged donations (along with a piece or two of candy).



"Being part of Trick-or-Can is a rewarding experience because we get to involve the whole community and help others who need it the most. This year felt so much more rewarding because 2020 was hard on so many people. It was amazing to witness the generosity of so many community members."

-Caroline H. Student (Bristol)



DATCP Provides New Equipment



After securing a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) The Sharing Center alongside the 13 other organizations within Milwaukee's Hunger Task Force in Wisconsin, were awarded a \$7.2 million grant. As part of the grant, the Sharing Center received a new fork truck and refrigerated van. The timing of these vehicles could not have been better as the pandemic has catalyzed the need for food assistance. In fact, according to Kenosha News, from June until the vans were rewarded in late October, the Hunger Task Force distributed 1,790,463 more pounds of food than they had during the same period a year ago.

Pictured: Executive Director, Sharon Pomaville, receives the Sharing Center's new refrigerated van from Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes.

This grant helps us continue our mission by:



Providing stability and reliability to the center.

Reallocating saved money. Not having to use operational dollars to purchase the vehicles allows us to continue the fight against causes such as homelessness and helping our participants secure living-wage jobs.



Increasing our reach and efficiency in delivering goods to community members.

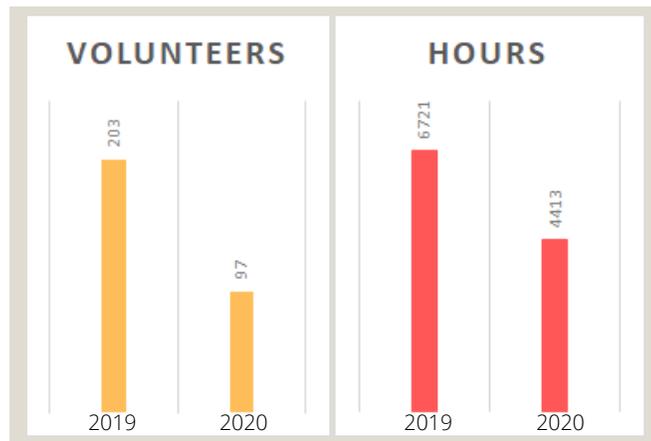
Supporting local! Five million dollars of the grant is to be used for buying from local growers and producers in Wisconsin.



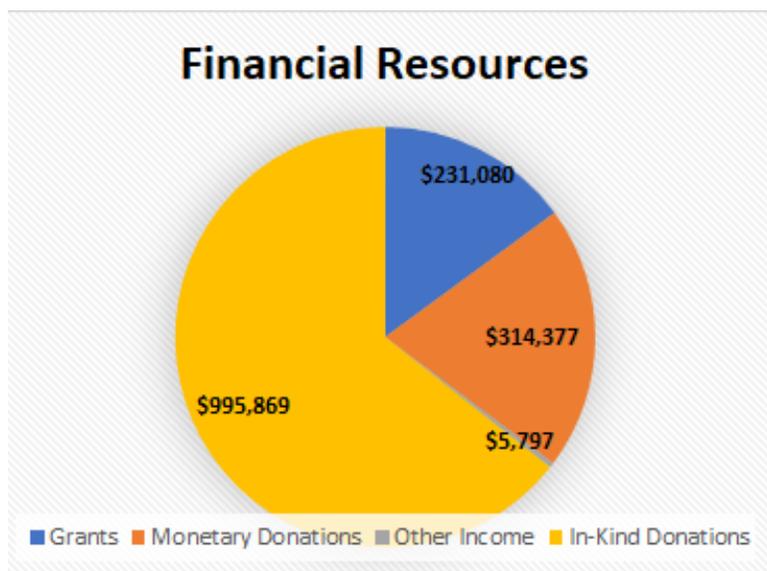
Special thanks to Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) for their generous funding to make this possible!

Collection and Distribution of Resources

Without the dedication of local volunteers, including former clients, local seniors, and students, the Sharing Center would be unable to provide our services, distribute food and connect individuals to necessary resources. In 2019, a total of 203 volunteers contributed to 6721 hours of service. With the unprecedented circumstances of 2020, the Center complied with state mandates by limiting the number of volunteers; 97 volunteers contributed to 4413 hours of service.

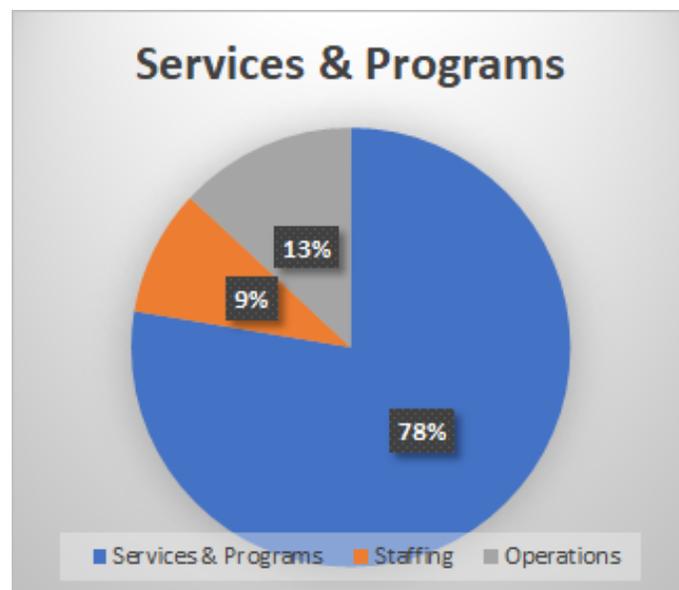


*The volunteer hours for 2020 are estimated at a \$66,195 value



The Sharing Center is a non-profit organization that relies on community donations as much as volunteer hours. In 2020, monetary donations including donations and grants accounted for nearly a third of the financial supports necessary to provide our services. As for food and other items, the in-kind value of those donations is estimated at a value near **\$1 million**.

How does this break down in terms of spending? Nearly 80% of funds are allocated directly to the goods, services, and connection to resources provided to the community, while the remaining budget is dedicated to operating costs, including building overhead and necessary staffing.



Fun Fact: The Sharing Center served 310,000 pounds of food in 2020!

Looking Ahead

WHAT CAN
I DO?

Volunteer:

Daytime volunteer shifts available Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Check our website for annual fundraisers, drives, and seasonal programs!

Board Member:

Apply to become a board member of the Sharing Center. See our website for more information.

Financial Contributions:

Your monetary contributions make a difference and are tax-deductible. Many companies offer donation match programs. Recurring donations through your financial institution or PayPal make donating easy.

Planned Giving:

Designating the Center as a beneficiary is a lasting investment in your community.

Host a fundraiser or drive:

Collect food, paper goods, personal hygiene items, school supplies, etc.; create a fundraising event (Penny Wars, Fun Runs, Birthday Donations).

How can I help?

AmazonSmile:

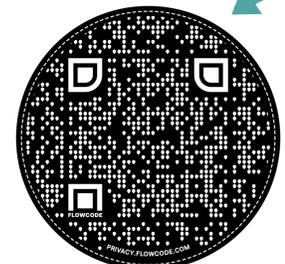
Every time you shop on Amazon, 0.5% of your purchases can be designated for "Sharing Center Inc.". Go to smile.amazon.com.

Corporate Partnership:

Support our work through corporate giving, volunteer projects, in-kind donations, events, and food drives.

Our goals in 2021 are to:

- Enhance the financial literacy resources available to families and individuals in Kenosha County.
- Implement online registration and ordering for food pantry participants.
- Strengthen our outreach and marketing efforts by updating our website and partnering with marketing interns.
- Upgrade our facilities to make for a more inviting and warm experience.



Scan me with your smart phone for more info!

If you or someone you know possesses the skills, abilities, knowledge, or resources to help us achieve these goals, reach out and volunteer!

Our Team



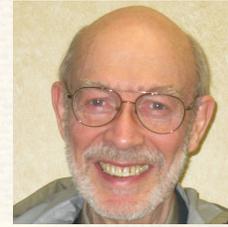
Sharon Pomaville
Executive Director
Salem



Larry Ellis
President
Trevor



Jenni Hansen
Vice President
Salem



David L. Menke
Treasurer
Bristol



Chris Holmstrom
Secretary
Paddock Lake



Paul V. Gagliardi
Board Member
Pleasant Prairie



Maria Dillman
Board Member
Lake Geneva



Scott Schupbach
Board Member
Lyons Township



Bill Harris
Board Member
Pleasant Prairie



Dragutin "Danny" Djordjevic
Board Member
Racine



Julie Peterkort
Board Member
Kenosha



Sheree Hagen
Board Member
Silver Lake



Tom Neave
Board Member
Paddock Lake



Thank you to the countless interns, volunteers, and community members who helped make 2020 a year full of accomplishments for our community.

